

Van Meter News



May 2014

CITY OF VAN METER

AUDIT REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2013

Completing financial audits and establishing appropriate internal controls are essential to maintaining financial health in a community. In addition, cities are required by law to conduct annual audits and file them with the State of Iowa. The process is not only a check against fraud but also an opportunity to learn about and implement better business practices, financial and otherwise, based on the auditor's findings.

The City chooses to contract with the Auditor of State to review our financial reports and business activities. We choose to have that review done by the Auditor of State rather than an independent CPA firm because we want only the highest authority giving us feedback.

Having completed a full audit for the 2012 fiscal year, in which we received a clean bill of financial health, we decided to utilize a less expensive "examination" procedure to review 2013. The examination cost \$3,990 rather than \$8,175 for a full audit. The same tests and checks against fraud are utilized however the examination report does not provide as much context as a full audit. Basically, the examination report is a simple list of areas where the City has room for improvement.

The 2013 examination listed eleven findings that the City needs to address. A number of which have already been corrected and we are actively working to address the remaining issues. However, according to Brian Brustkern who managed the examination and reported the State Auditor's findings to the City Council, there are fewer findings to report [in Van Meter] than in other Cities of similar size. Mr. Brustkern concluded his presentation to the City Council by saying, "All in all, things in this City are in pretty good shape."

You can read the examination for yourself and listen to the entire presentation given to the City Council on the City's website by going to <http://vanmeteria.gov/audit>. If you have questions regarding the Auditor's findings please direct them to City Hall.

Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

Council Members—

-Kim Sacker,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Bob Lacy

-Michael Peterson

-Owen Stump

-Elizabeth Tweed

City Staff:

City Hall -
515-996-2644

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator
515-954-6094

Liz Thompson-Clerk
515-669-6396

Lisa Tuma-
Deputy Clerk/Rec
515-996-2644

David Herman-
Public Works
515-240-9280

Chad Gillespie-
Public Works
515-371-9933

Bill Daggett-Police Chief
515-202-4154
Dispatch: 515-993-4567

Jolena Welker-
Library Director
515-996-2435

Michelle Boren-
Library Assistant
515-996-2435

VAN METER PARKS AND RECREATION

Saturday, May 10

Garage Sale Day!! Why not start your spring cleaning by having a Garage Sale? Move out some of those “treasures” in the garage, basement and closets!!! The Annual Community Garage Sale Day will be **Saturday, May 10 from 8am to 3pm.** **All** sites are requested to register and pay \$5.00 which helps defray the cost of advertising and printing maps. All registered will be entered into a drawing for a free floral hanging basket.

Plant Sale!! For those that ordered plants from the park board, they will be available for pick up on **Saturday, May 10 between 8am and 2pm.** If you did not order in advance, there will be extras available for purchase the day of the sale. Pickup at the City Maintenance Building (just west of Casey's). Just in time for Mother's Day!!!

VAN METER FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAYS FROM 8:30AM TO 11:30AM

The Van Meter Farmers Market kick off is June 7th
Located outside of City Hall.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor can contact 515-996-2702 for information.

Also looking for volunteers to help with sign placement and marketing.



“SUN”sational—June 6, 7, 8

Parade, Family Fun, Kid Activities

Volunteers still needed—

Contact Becca Wiederholt at raccoonriverdays@gmail.com or at 515-210-2848

Visit the city website and Facebook for updates!

VM



CONGRATULATIONS!

Class of 2014

Van Meter Grads!

**Best wishes for
success
in your future
endeavors!**

MAY

RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 5

Monday, May 19

MEMORIAL DAY

City offices will be **closed** on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day. That includes the following: City Hall, the Public Library and Public Works.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 403 PRESENTS

BINGO NIGHT

AT THE VETERANS RECEPTION CENTER

THE FOLLOWING FRIDAYS
5:00 - 7:00 PM
* MAY 16TH * JUNE 6TH *
* JULY 18TH * AUGUST 22ND *
910 MAIN STREET
VAN METER, IA

\$1.00 a sheet
4 cards per sheet

make a trip out to beautiful Dallas County
off I-80, take exit 113
go over the river & RR tracks
turn left on Main Street

Questions?
Call: 515-996-9166
www.VeteransReceptionCenter.com

Iowa

Christians In Action (CIA) Youth Group—VM United Methodist Church

May 2nd Movie Night at Trindle Park for 7th-12th grade students starting at 5pm ending at 10pm. Movie, games, free food, and fun!

May 24th Pop Can Drive to help support youth missions and activities. Save your cans and bottles. Place on the curb for pick up between 9am and noon. They can also be dropped off at the Methodist church between those times.



Contact Crystal Knight at (515)783-5175 with questions.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

LIBRARY NEWS—CHECK IT OUT!!

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May." ~ Wm Shakespeare

Welcome May!

Get ready for summer reading! We will have sign up for kids and teens the same weekend as Raccoon River days!

You can sign up Friday or Saturday, June 6th and 7th during library hours. We will have special treats both days that go with the kids theme **Boom, Pop, Fizz!** Ages, preschool through 6th grade can sign up for the kid's reading program and 7th through 12th graders can sign up for the teen program. This year we will have you keep track of time instead of number of books. Be sure to stop in, sign up and get your reading logs and instructions.

Some of the things we will be doing this summer are special treats on Fridays, science experiments for everyone on Wednesdays and The Science Center will be coming in July for a program. Watch here for more details. The prizes will be announced closer to the beginning of June. I will put this information on the city Facebook, newsletter and county newspapers.

We will also have our treasure chest and books to keep each time you come in and record your amount of time reading.

I love summer reading time and this one promises to be even more fun with science and math as the theme. We will also have a lot of time outdoors. So enjoy summer learning, reading, playing and being outdoors! Jolena and Michelle

We have a new Dell Public Computer for use in our library. Our old one had XP and was quite old. I have heard many wonderful comments on our new computer.

Thursday, May 8th at 6:30pm—crocheting and knitting at the library.

Book clubs meet on the 3rd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm at the library. The first is our regular book club and the other is the Sci-Fi Fantasy group. I really enjoy both and we have read a lot of great books. **Join us!**

Wednesdays at 10am—story time through the summer.

This summer the fire department and the library will be working together to have monthly movies in the firehouse for the kids. Watch for upcoming information.

We have a new Literary paper that Shannon Buckner and I are publishing together each month starting in May. Copies are available at the library or we will have it online at a later date. This will showcase local talent for art, poetry, book reviews, music, comics, short stories etc. If you would like to enter anything in the paper please send to theliterarymagazine@outlook.com. This is **for all ages**.

A committee has formed to plan The 2nd annual Van Meter Visitor Festival September 27th. If you have ideas for the festival please let me or Michelle know.

Stop in for a cup of "joe" and check out our books, DVDs, magazines, games and puzzles. **Your library has a lot to offer you!**

Jolena and Michelle



Phone: 515-996-2435

Email: jwelker@vanmeteria.gov or

mboren@vanmeteria.gov

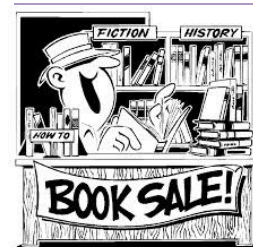
Library Hours

Mon, Fri—9am-5pm

Tues—3pm-8pm

Wed, Th—9am-8pm

Sat—9 am to noon



Annual FRIENDS of The Van Meter Public Library Book and Bake sale

May 10th, 2014

8am -3pm

Van Meter United Methodist Church

Lunch will be served.

All proceeds benefit the library through the FRIENDS of the Van Meter Public Library.



NUISANCES

The sun is shining. The snow has melted. Spring has sprung... Life is good! Things to consider this spring.

City codes regulates “nuisances.”

Definition of Nuisance: Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

Nuisance Abatement: Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer shall cause to be served upon the property owner a written notice to abate the nuisance within a reasonable time after notice.

City officials will be more diligent in enforcing these ordinances.

A nuisance can be “junk” and/or the accumulation of “junk.”

“Junk” means all old or scrap copper, brass, lead, or any other non-ferrous metal; old or discarded rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste or used lumber, or salvaged wood; dismantled vehicles, machinery and appliances or parts of such vehicles, machinery or appliances; iron, steel or other old or scrap ferrous materials; old or discarded glass, tinware, plastic or old or discarded household goods or hardware. Neatly stacked firewood located on a side yard or a rear yard is not considered junk.

It is unlawful for any person to store, accumulate, or allow to remain on any private property within the corporate limits of the City any junk or junk vehicles.

Also addressed in the nuisance section of the code are junk vehicles, noise control, animal protection and control, and dangerous and illegal animals.

In part, the dog ordinance prohibits an owner to allow a dog to run at large within the corporate limits of the City. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.

It is unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog to permit barking or any other noise excessively, continuously, or intermittently, for any unreasonable period of time so as to create an annoyance or disturbance of any person at any time of day or night.

WEEDS AND BRUSH. Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety or fire hazard. Unless a variance is allowed by resolution of the Council pursuant to 53.05, weeds, brush, or other uncultivated plants, except trees, shall be cut, mowed and maintained so as to not exceed the heights set forth specifically in this Chapter.

Any property within the City, other than property used and taxed as Agricultural, whether vacated or non-vacated, is required to be mowed prior to the vegetation reaching a height of ten inches (10"). Once the vegetation has reached the height of ten inches (10") or twenty-four inches (24"), the City will arrange to mow the property at the property owner's expense.

Property used and taxed as Agricultural is exempt from this chapter's height and mowing requirements.

Any property which is not mowed may be mowed by the City or their agents, and a charge of \$75.00 per hour, (with a minimum of one (1) hour, and any additional time over the first hour will be billed in half-hour increments), for such mowing, plus an administrative surcharge of \$100.00, will be charged to the property owner. Any property owner who fails to mow their property, thus allowing the same to be mowed by the City or their agents, and who do not provide payment for the mowing as required, will be assessed by the City for such costs, which will be collected in the same manner as general property taxes.

Full copies of these codes can be found at City Hall or on our website at www.vanmeteria.gov.



505 GRANT STREET
PO BOX 160
VAN METER IA 50261
Phone: 515-996-2644
Fax: 515-996-2207
E-mail: info@vanmeteria.gov



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Van Meter
on Facebook!**

WWW.VANMETERIA.GOV

CEMETERY RULES AND REGS

Pursuant to Municipal Code 115.05:

The following information is a partial list of rules and regulations. Please visit our website at www.vanmeteria.gov for a complete list of the rules and regulations found under the cemetery sections.

Summary of Rules and Regulations:

Pets, food, and firearms, other than those carried by police officers or used in military honor funeral services, shall be prohibited in the cemetery.

No person shall drive any vehicle within the cemetery except upon the driveways prepared and designed for that purpose, and such vehicles shall not be operated in excess of the posted speed limit of 10 mph. Driving on the grass, walks, and alleys is prohibited with the exception of maintenance personnel.

It shall be unlawful for any person to desecrate or injure the cemetery, or any lot, grave, gravestone, monument, fence, tree or shrubbery therein.

General care is assumed by the City and includes the cutting and watering of grass, debris removal, fertilization, and periodic pruning of shrubs and trees.

Grave decorations of all kinds will be removed when in the judgment of maintenance personnel they do not conform to the decorum of the cemetery.

Holiday decorations are permitted, but must be removed thirty days after the holiday. Decorations may be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

The planting or placing of shrubbery, plants, flowers, or grass is prohibited as is the placement of trees.

No coping or fence of any kind shall be permitted.

It is prohibited for cremains to be scattered in the cemetery; or buried without the City's permission and notification.

City staff may handle the placement of cremains upon the request of the family at a fee of \$150 and said fee is established by resolution.

Only a contractor approved by the city shall perform the opening and closing at any gravesite

Lots shall be sold by the city clerk at the established price set by resolution adopted by the City Council. The city clerk shall issue a deed to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price.

An owner of a space in the cemetery may only transfer his or her space to a relative by blood or marriage. Documentation shall be submitted to the city clerk for recording.

The City may purchase a space from an owner at the purchase price, and said space shall be made available to the general public and previous deed voided.